## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04324 130946 Z

45

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 OIC-04

RSR-01 /167 W

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R 130927 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3775 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 4324

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, IN, GATT

SUBJ: INDIA AND ITS GATT PERFORMANCE

REF: GENEVA 1578

- 1. I SYMPATHIZE WITH DILEMMA OF OUR GENEVA MISSION (GENEVA 1578) AND COMMEND IT ON THE SOUNDNESS OF ITS JUDGMENT. I AGREE THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN HOUNDING INDIA OUT OF GATT, BUT WE MUST FIND SOMEWAY OF UPHOLDING GATT PRINCIPLES IN THE FACE OF INDIAN EVASION. AFTER ALL, THE REASON FOR HAVING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS GATT IS FOR THE REGULARIZING EFFECT THEY HAVE ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR MEMBERS. IN A SPEECH IN BOMBAY ON APRIL 6, I POINTEDLY REFERRED TO INDIA'S OBLIGATION TO EXTEND TO US EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ON THE INDIAN MARKET.
- 2. BEYOND STANDARD LDC CLAIM FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY, INDIA'S TRADE ATTITUDES ARE INFLUENCED STRONGLY BY THE AUTARKIC PERIOD INDIA IS PASSING THROUGH AND BY A DESIRE TO CONTROL AND GUIDE ALL FACETS OF ITS ECONOMY. ALTHOUGH IT VALUES ITS GATT PARTICIPATION LARGELY FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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## PAGE 02 NEW DE 04324 130946 Z

BENEFITS IT DERIVES FROM GATT (INCLUDING ANOTHER CHANCE TO MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD), ITS ACTIONS ARE OFTEN QUITE INCONSISTENT WITH THE LETTER OF GATT. I REFER PARTICULARLY TO ITS VERY RESTRICTIVE LICENSING OF IMPORTS AND ITS EXTENSIVE LISTS OF ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE IMPORTED AT ALL. THESE ARE CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE XI. I BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE CALLED TO INDIA'S ATTENTION IN THE PROPER MANNER IN GATT. INDIA'S TRADE OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO MY OFFICERS THAT THEY EXPECTED INDIA SOONER- OR- LATER TO BE CALLED TO TASK FOR ITS RESTRICTIONS. SO LONG AS INDIA CONTROLS ITS TRADE THROUGH LICENSING, CHANGES IN CUSTOMS DUTIES ARE ALMOST IRRELEVANT AND PROTESTS ARE JUST FOR THE RECORD. THE REAL ISSUE IS ARE WE GOING TO ACQUIESCE WHILE INDIA MOVES EVER CLOSER TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ITS IMPORTS AND EVER FARTHER FROM THE OPEN ECONOMY VISUALIZED BY GATT? I RECOMMEND THAT WE AT LEAST CONSIDER TRYING TO NUDGE THEM BACK TOWARDS THE GATT FOLD BY HAVING INCONSISTENCY OF THEIR ACTIONS WITH GATT PRINCIPLES SOME-HOW RAISED. ALTHOUGH THE TECHNICALITIES MUST BE WORKED OUT ELSEWHERE, WE WILL BE GLAD TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING AN APPROACH.

MOYNIHAN

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: ETRD, IN, GATT

To: EB **GENEVA** 

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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